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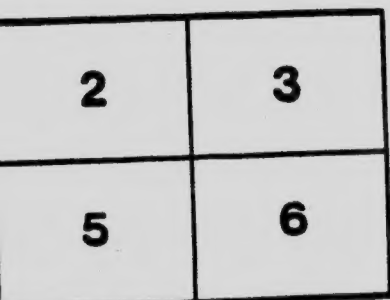
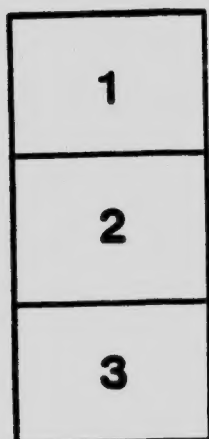
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1901

SOCIALIST PARTYOF B. C....

CHAIRMAN:

O. Lee Charlton,

61 John St., Victoria.

SECRETARY:

Ernest Burns,

130 Powell St., Van-
couver.

STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES ADOPTED AT VANCOUVER OCTOBER 3rd, 1901.

THE Socialist Party of B. C., in convention assembled, reaffirms its adherence to the principles of International Socialism, and declares its aim to be the organization of the working class, and those in sympathy with it, into a political party, with the object of conquering the powers of government and using them for the purpose of transforming the present system of private ownership of the means of production and distribution into collective ownership by the entire people.

Formerly the tools of production were simple and owned by the individual worker. To-day the machine, which is an improved and more developed tool of production, is owned by the capitalists and not by the worker. This ownership enables the capitalists to control the product and keep the workers dependent upon them.

Private ownership of the means of production and distribution is responsible for the ever increasing uncertainty of livelihood and poverty and misery of the working class, and it divides society in two hostile classes—the capitalists and wage-workers. The once powerful middle class is rapidly disappearing in the mill of competition. The struggle is now between the capitalist class and the working class. The possession of the means of livelihood gives to the capitalists the control of the government, the press, the pulpit and schools, and enables them to reduce the workingmen to a state of intellectual, physical and social inferiority, political subservience and virtual slavery.

The economic interests of the capitalist class dominate our entire social system; the lives of the working class are recklessly sacrificed for profit, wars

are fomented between nations, indiscriminate slaughter is encouraged and the destruction of whole races is sanctioned in order that the capitalists may extend their commercial dominion abroad and enhance their supremacy at home.

But the same economic causes which developed capitalism are leading to socialism, which will abolish both the capitalist class and the class of wage-workers. And the active force in bringing about this new and higher order of society is the working class. All other classes, despite their apparent or actual conflicts, are alike interested in the upholding of the system of private ownership of the instruments of wealth production. The Liberal, Conservative, the bourgeois Public Ownership parties, and all other parties which do not stand for the complete overthrow of the capitalist system of production, are alike political representatives of the capitalist class.

The workers can most effectively act as a class in their struggle against the collective powers of capitalism, by constituting themselves into a political party, distinct from and opposed to all parties formed by the propertied classes.

While we declare that the development of economic conditions tends to the overthrow of the capitalist system, we recognize that the time and manner of the transition of Socialism also de-

pend upon the stage of development reached by the proletariat. We, therefore, consider it of the utmost importance for the Socialist party to support all active efforts of the working class to better its condition and to elect Socialists to political offices, in order to facilitate to attainment of the end.

PLATFORM.

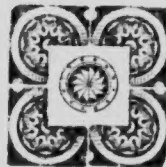
General Demands.

1. The public ownership of all industries controlled by monopolies, trusts, and combines, and ultimately of all the means of production, distribution, and exchange. No part of the revenue of such industries to be applied to the reduction of taxes on property, but to be applied wholly to the increase of wages and shortening of the hours of labor of the employes, to the improvement of the service, and to diminishing rates to the consumers.
2. The progressive reduction of the hours of labor and the increase of wages in order to increase the share of the capitalist and increase the share of the worker in the product of labor.
3. The establishment of a national currency and government banking system; all fire and life insurance to be also operated by the government in the interests of the whole people.
4. The inauguration of a system of public industries; public credit to be used for that purpose in order that the workers be secured the full product of their labor.
5. Abolition of the senate, establishment of the initiative and referendum, proportional representation, and right of recall of representatives by their constituents.

Provincial Demands.

1. Abolition of financial and property qualifications for candidates and electors at provincial and municipal elections.
2. The education of all children up to the age of sixteen years to be free, secular and compulsory. Text books, meals, and clothing to be supplied out of the public funds when necessary.
3. Municipalization and public control of the liquor traffic.
4. A nine-hour work law fixing wages at not less than \$2 per day, thereby counteracting evil effects of Oriental emigration into this province.
5. Reduction of hours of labor to 44 per week.
6. Scientific and practical management of fisheries, forests, and waterways in best interest of the producers.
7. Government operation of coal mines and immediate construction and operation of smelters, refineries, and saw mills for benefit of the workers.
8. Abolition of poll and personal property tax, the deficit to be met by an increased tax on land values.
9. No more bonuses of either land or money to individuals or private corporations.
10. Graduated land tax similar to law in operation in New Zealand.
11. Government hospitals throughout the province, and free medical attendance to all needing such.

But in advocating these measures as steps in the overthrow of capitalism and the establishment of the Co-operative Commonwealth, we caution the workers against such public ownership movements as are an attempt of the capitalist class to secure government control of public utilities for the purpose of obtaining greater security in the exploitation of other industries and not for the amelioration of the condition of the working class. It must be remembered that there is a vast difference between "government" and "public" ownership. While the corporations own the senate and parliament we will have the "government ownership," and not until the people own and control the legislatures can we have true "public" ownership.



CONSTITUTION.

Sec. I. This organization shall be known as the "Socialist Party of B. C."

Sec. II. The party shall be organized as follows: First, local branches of not less than five members; second, an executive board of seven members, these to be elected at annual convention of delegates from all Locals. At least four of the Executive shall be chosen from place of headquarters, and known as resident members. The non-resident members of the Executive shall not be required to be present at all meetings, but shall be consulted and kept advised of all the proceedings of the board.

Sec. III. The executive board shall have supervision of the party organization. It shall have power to hire and appoint organizers, grant to and revoke charters of Locals, and adopt such measures as may be required to carry out objects of organization. The executive board shall be required to make a report of its meetings through its official organ, "The Lardeau Eagle."

Sec. IV. Any member of the executive board may be recalled by an imperative mandate of the membership of the Party; his successor to be elected by the initiative and referendum. A majority of those members voting being necessary to elect.

Sec. V. The officers of the Executive shall be: Chairman, Treasurer, Literary Agent, Organizer, and Secretary. They shall be elected at annual conventions.

Sec. VI. The duties of the secretary shall be to act as corresponding and recording secretary, and to receive the provincial dues from secretaries of local branches. The treasurer shall take charge of the funds of the Party, and furnish a bond to amount required by the executive board. The literary agent shall take

charge of the literary propaganda of the Party. The organizer shall organize new branches, and build up existing branches, and shall be subject to direction of the executive board.

Sec. VII. A Party convention may be called any time, at the request of five branches.

Sec. VIII. Any reputable person who subscribes to the principles of the Socialist Party of B. C., and sever all connection with the old political parties, shall be eligible for membership.

Sec. IX. The dues of the members shall be fixed by each Local, but shall be sufficient to pay ten cents per month, for each member, to the executive board.

Sec. X. A local branch shall consist of at least five members, and shall hold at least one meeting per month. It shall make its own rules and by-laws so long as they do not conflict with the provincial constitution.

Sec. XI. Any person subscribing to our principles and platform in a locality where there is no local branch may become a member at large by sending his application to the provincial secretary and complying with the constitution.

Sec. XII. All questions not provided for in this constitution shall be dealt with by the executive board, subject to a referendum vote.

Sec. XIII. The Executive shall submit all questions to a referendum vote upon the request of three Locals.

Sec. XIV. Under no circumstances shall the Socialist Party of B. C. fuse or act with any political party, unless they have substantially the same principles as our party.

Sec. XV. This constitution may be amended by a referendum vote of the membership, or at the annual provincial convention of the Party.

Sec. XVI. The annual convention shall be called by the executive some time before November of each year. Every Local in good standing shall be entitled to send one delegate, and one additional delegate for each 20 members, or major fraction, the same paying dues to executive.

PLEDGE:

As a member of the Socialist Party of B. C., I declare my belief in, and my intention to work for the Collective Ownership of all the means of production, distribution and exchange. And I pledge myself to vote and work for Socialist candidates, when such are nominated for any elective position by our organization.



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